

INTEGRATING PREVENTIVE ORAL HEALTH MEASURES INTO HEALTHCARE PRACTICE



A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR HEALTHCARE SETTINGS



Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services

INTEGRATING PREVENTIVE ORAL HEALTH MEASURES INTO HEALTHCARE PRACTICE:

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Section 1: Maternal Oral Health

Section 2: Early Childhood Oral Health

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**Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
Division of Public Health**

Preface

Health care providers play an important role in establishing optimum oral health for families. The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Oral Health Program is pleased to offer training for medical providers that will assist in integrating oral health promotion and oral disease prevention services into health care visits. An interdisciplinary approach to oral health has the potential to promote and assure comprehensive primary, oral health prevention services, increase healthy birth outcomes, and diminish oral disease burdens.

Access to oral health services is a major problem for many Wisconsin citizens. According to the 2002 Women's and Children's Health Policy Center publication, *Improving Women's Health and Perinatal Outcomes: The Impact of Oral Diseases*, birth outcomes can be impacted through addressing women's oral health needs during the prenatal period. Studies show that periodontal disease has a potential impact on premature delivery and low birth weight babies. Tooth decay is a transmissible, bacterial infection that can be transmitted from mother to child.

Many children suffer needlessly from tooth decay, a preventable disease. In the fall of 2001, the Department of Health and Family Services initiated an oral health screening survey of third grade children in Wisconsin. Key findings of the survey indicate:

- **60.1 percent of the children had a history of tooth decay**
- **30.8 percent of the children had untreated tooth decay**
- **31.1 percent of the children needed dental care – 27.1 percent were in need of early dental care while 4.0 percent needed urgent dental care**
- **Children attending lower income schools were twice as likely to be in need of urgent dental care**

Early Childhood Caries/Cavities (ECC) is a rampant form of tooth decay found in infants and toddlers with distinct characteristics and risk factors. The condition can be debilitating for children by affecting their ability to obtain nutrition, affecting their energy level, and affecting their ability to concentrate in the learning process.

DHFS Oral Health Consultants provide oral health training for *Integrating Preventive Oral Health Measures into Healthcare Practice*. Training includes:

Section1: Maternal Oral Health

- Conducting risk assessments
- Conducting adult basic screening
- Providing prenatal oral health anticipatory guidance
- Establishing a rationale for referral to a dentist

Section 2: Early Childhood Caries Prevention

- Conducting early childhood basic screening
- Parent or caregiver oral health anticipatory guidance
- Providing fluoride varnish application*
- Establishing a rationale for referral to a dentist

The *Integrating Preventive Oral Health into Healthcare Practice: a Training Program for Healthcare Settings* is comprised of two sections. Training sessions accompany each section and can be delivered in accordance with the needs of the site requesting training.

Section 1: *Maternal Oral Health* provides the medical practitioner resources and instructions for providing services to expectant mothers. It includes information to conduct an oral screening (Adult Basic Screening Survey), risk assessment checklists for determining maternal periodontal disease and caries risk, training participant Pre-test/Post test, Maternal Oral Health Power Point Presentation, instructions for medical practitioners to provide the mother anticipatory guidance and reproducible expectant mother handouts.

Section 2: *Early Childhood Oral Health* provides the medical practitioner resources and information for providing services to infants and toddlers. It includes information for conducting early childhood caries screening, risk assessment checklists for determining children at higher risk of developing caries, a participant Pre-test/Post test, Early Childhood Oral Health Power Point Presentation, instructions for medical practitioners to provide caregivers and parents anticipatory guidance and reproducible handouts. This section also provides fluoride varnish application instructions and protocol for medical practitioners, resources including, supply ordering information, sample parent caregiver letters, permission forms, training participant roster, and supporting articles.

This manual will be updated annually and participating training sites will receive e-mail notices of program changes. Resources and handouts may be photocopied and distributed without permission. Technical assistance, additional and refresher Maternal and Early Childhood Oral Health training sessions are available through the Department of Health and Family Services upon request. For technical assistance, additional and refresher training sessions and program inquiries please contact:

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Reference the publication number and contact the address below for additional copies of the following publications:

Make Your Smile Count Survey, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services 2001-2002

Publication number: PPH 0001 (11/02)

Overview of Children's Oral Health in Wisconsin: Youth Oral Health Data Collection Report Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services 2001-2002

Publication number: PPH 0002 (11/02)

Healthy Teeth for Happy Smiles, Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Public Health

Publication number: PPH 4078 (05/03)

Oral Health Program
Office of Public Health Improvement
Division of Public Health
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Publications and program information are also located on the Web site at:

http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/health/oral_health

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